Ganga Action Plan

3429. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of Ganga Action Plan;

(b) to what extent Ganga has been purified; and

(c) at the present rate, how long it will take to complete the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ganga Action Plan has been taken up in two phases. Under the first phase started in June 1985 at a cost of Rs. 462.04 crore, an amount of Rs. 451.70 crore has been utilised by the Government of India. In addition an amount of Rs. 477.25 crore has been utilised so far out of allocated funds of Rs. 1276.26 crore on the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan approved in stages between 1993 to 1996.

(b) The target fixed for the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I was to bring the water quality of the river Ganga to the "bathing class" standards which is as under:

Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	3 mg/l (maximum)
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	5 mg/l (minimum)
Total Coliform (MPN)	10,000 per 100 ml
Fecal Coliform (MPN)	2,500 per 100 ml

The present level of Bio-chemical oxygen demand, an indicator of pollution is lower than the level in 1986, The range of Bio-chemcial oxygen demand level which was 1.7 to 15.5 in 1986 has come down to 1.0 to 6.5 in 1999. The range of dissolved oxygen level which was 5.6 to 8.4 in 1986 has risen to 7.1 to 9.0 in 1999. However, there has been only an incidental reduction in the level of microbial pollution of the treated sewage reaching the river. A total of 835 million litre per day of sewage has been intercepted for treatment under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I upto 2000. With the completion of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I, only about 35% of the pollution generated from towns located along the Ganga has been tackled. The remaining pollution is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase II which is already under

execution. Under this phase, interception and treatment of 1861 million litre per day of sewage is proposed.

(c) While the Ganga Action Plan Phase I has been declared closed since 31.3.2000, the Ganga Action Plan Phase II is likely to be completed by 2005.

Killing of animals by trains in Rajaji National Park

†3430. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants, cheetals and other wild animals run over so far by trains on the rail line passing through Rajaji National Park;

(b) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for prevention of death of wild animals, including elephants, due to the passing trains and also for their safety;

(c) whether Government propose to remove the said rail line or shift it to some other place; if so, when the work in this regard would begin; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Ministry would like to take to prevent such deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As reported by the State Government, 6 elephants, 17 Cheetals, 4 Sambars, 3 Wild Boar and 1 python have died due to train accidents since January, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to technical and financial reasons, the proposal for diversion of railway line is not possible. The steps contemplated are:

(1) Reduction of speed in identified critical stretches.

(2) Smoothening the gradient of the slope on both sides of the railway line.

(3) Clearance of vegetation on both sides of the railway line.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.